

Konza Prairie Monitor Status

Desk Statement:

EPA Region 7 and other EPA offices have communicated with the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) regarding the termination of the air monitor in the Konza Prairie site. The monitor was removed at the request of the landowners (The Nature Conservancy). We believe it is important that we respect private property rights and be a "good neighbor."

Discussions are underway to find another appropriate location for the monitor.

The initial purpose of the monitor was to monitor the effects of pollutants on the environment not compliance for public health.
~~Technically, EPA Region 7 environmental professionals believe that two other monitors in the~~
~~Kansas air monitoring system located in Topeka, Kan. and Cedar Bluffs, Kan., will continue to~~
provide us with the coverage we need. Ozone monitors are placed primarily to gather information from urban areas to support EPA's primary mission to protect human health and the environment. Statistically speaking, historical data from the Konza Prairie monitor is very similar to that collected at other monitoring sites near Topeka and Cedar Bluffs, Kan. *Monitors located in Topeka and Cedar Bluffs, KS, provide the regulatory coverage required by the State.*

We still believe that Kansas and EPA have a monitoring system in place that provides needed protections for Kansans. If citizens are concerned, the public has an opportunity for annual input into the effectiveness of the Kansas air monitoring network. The next opportunity for their voices to be heard will be sometime later this year.

Only if pressed -

The Konza Prairie monitor was part of the CASTNET monitoring program. CASTNET is dependent on contributions from many organizations including EPA, the National Park Service (NPS), Native American tribes, universities, and other government agencies. CASTNET provides long-term monitoring of air quality in rural areas to determine regional atmospheric trends used to evaluate the effectiveness of national and regional air pollution control programs. CASTNET operates more than 80 regional sites throughout the contiguous United States, Alaska, and Canada. Sites are located in areas where urban influences are minimal.

Internal Discussion
Call W/ GSI - KDHE

Ozone / CASTNET

NO₂ monitoring / modeling
in Wichita

May 1 @ 2:00 - 3:00

Michael J. F. Hardy, Bob Nichols,
Lachala, Lee

Lee T. (HANE)

May has some open monitors

- ones we have are not

remotely accessible

- hands on QA

Shelter - at Kanya site

would not be needed

- Easy low - no duplicate
at error ~~has~~ been

May - said they pull the
active site.

*KSA - was using some data
for research (NO_x sulfate)
but not open data for
their research. - KDHE
NO₂ data for Wichita (North?)
from 2000 to 2006 average
KDHE wants to know if